

Serial No. 10/064,327

stated that simply declaring that the evidences were made prior to the effective date does not place the evidences as showing facts that were established before the effective date. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Section II of MPEP 715.07 states that if the dates of the exhibits have been removed or blocked off, the matter of dates can be taken care of in the body of the oath or declaration. When alleging that conception or a reduction to practice occurred prior to the effective date of the reference, the dates in the oath or declaration may be the actual dates or, if the applicant or patent owner does not desire to disclose his or her actual dates, he or she may merely allege the facts referred to occurred prior to a specified date. Accordingly, Applicant is not required to state the actual dates of the reduction to practice. The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 should be withdrawn.

This reply is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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